

APR 15 1924✓

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NOTCH-NUMBER ONE✓

Photoplay in five reels✓

Story by Daniel F. Whitcomb✓

Author of the Photoplay (under section 62)
Arrow Film Corporation of U.S.

APR 15 1924

G.W. #1 ~~"THE FIRST NOTCH"~~

Synopsis

Tom Watson, foreman of Moore's Ranch, is silently in love with Dorothy Moore, young, attractive daughter of his boss. She is in love with and engaged to young Dave Leonard who is working at the Ranch on a year's probation for her hand. Watson, while "riding the line", sees "Pete", one of the hands abusing a pair of horses and after knocking him down, fires him. Watson, while instructing Dave, notices some cigarettes in Dave's pocket given him by Pete. These are rolled from the leaf of the Marihuana (Loco weed) which Tom tells Dave drives the smoker fighting mad. Watson takes them intending to inform Moore about "Pete". In the meantime, "Pete" under the influence of his special cigarettes tries to hold up Moore, but is beaten and in fear for his life runs away.

Watson is very fond of 6 year old Dicky Moore and is making him an Indian doll. During the evening Dave comes to Watson's quarters to say that Dickey won't go to sleep without his doll. Watson leaves Dave and goes to see Dicky. In the meantime Dave, sitting at Watson's table, sees the cigarettes. He decides to try one. The first leads to more and after smoking several Dave becomes violent. Moore, hearing the noise enters the room and grasping the situation starts to bawl him out, when Dave in his temporary insanity goes for him and they clinch.

In the meantime "Pete" has returned for revenge on Moore and Watson and witnessing the struggle between Moore and Dave waits his opportunity and shoots Moore. Watson hears the shot and rushes back to find Dave standing over Moore's body. He, of course, thinking Dave has killed Moore decides to sacrifice himself for Dorothy's sake. Dave starts to struggle, but Watson knocks him cold and takes him to his (Dave's) own quarters unconscious. Watson then goes back to his room where the cowboys find him putting a notch in his gun. He holds them up and rides into the desert a fugitive. A posse is at once organized to hunt the escaped murderer.

In the morning little Dicky missing poor Grandpa (Moore) takes his burro and starts across the desert to find him. He loses his way and early in the afternoon the burro takes fright and runs away from him. After staggering for some time in the blinding heat and sand, calling for his Grandpa and Watson, he falls exhausted. Watson hears the call and decides that it is either a tragedy or a frame-up, but either way he must save the child. He brings Dicky into his hiding-place, revives him and later Dicky asks to be taken home. Knowing that it will mean his capture, he however takes the child home where Dave is trying to assuage Dorothy's grief. He is met by the Sheriff and taken to jail.

In the meantime "Pete" is found at the edge of a poisoned spring and on him is found a statement that Watson is innocent and he did the killing. This being brought to the Sheriff secures Watson's freedom and his rehabilitation with those whom he holds most dear.

The End.

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The End.

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